

25X25 ALLIANCE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE TO MEET IN GREAT FALLS

HELENA - The National Steering Committee for the 25x'25 Alliance will meet in Great Falls July 8-9.

The initiative is made up of more than 700 grassroots agricultural, forestry, conservation and environmental organizations and leaders working to help the nation improve energy security.

The project has two primary goals: to help leaders unite behind a common vision for energy production from America's farms, ranches and forestlands, and to advance a comprehensive strategy to bring this vision to life.

Montana Gov. Schweitzer was the first governor in the country to sign on to this important initiative. "We are honored to host this important meeting in Great Falls," Governor Schweitzer said. "This just goes to show that Montana is at the forefront of clean, green energy development."

Committee member and Cascade County Commissioner Peggy Beltrone has been working on clean energy projects throughout the region.

"It is the vision of this organization that 25 percent of the total energy consumption in the U.S. will be made from renewable resources by the year 2025," Beltrone said.

25x'25 projects that the 25 percent renewable energy goal will generate over \$700 billion in new economic development annually, will produce between 4-5 million new jobs and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as one billion tons per year.

25x'25 leaders will host a roundtable with stakeholders interested in advancing renewable energy production in the state while in Great Falls.

The following day, the Committee will visit the ASTM Biodiesel Testing Lab at MSU-Northern and the Earl Fisher BioFuels LLP facility in Chester.